

Minutes Template



Recreation Advisory Board MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
January 11, 2016**

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Bob Pierce, Vice Chair Todd Dunnuck, Laura Carlson, Pat Dennehy, Helen Hyatt, Barry Mundt, Kimberly Reed, Keith Young

Staff in Attendance: Roderick Simmons, Debbie Ivester, Sandra Travis, Allison Dains, Dee Black, Mark Halstead, Al Kopf, Christy Bass

1. Welcome Keith Young, City Council Liaison

Chairman Bob Pierce called the meeting to order at 12:31pm. The Chair welcomed the new City Council Liaison to the Board: Keith Young.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Pierce called for any comments, addendums, or changes to the November minutes. Hearing no comment, the Chair then called for a motion to approve the minutes as written. Pat Dennehy motioned to approve, Barry Mundt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimous.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. RAB Visioning Work Session

Chairman Pierce told the Board Debbie Ivester has sent out the polls for the Facility Tour and the Visioning Work Session. He encouraged RAB members to respond to both polls this week so staff can schedule the dates.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. RAB 2015 Annual Report

Debbie Ivester presented the RAB 2015 Annual Report as a compilation of highlights of actions by the Board in 2015. The report is due to the City Clerk by the end of the month. Chairman Pierce called for any comments, additions, or changes. There were none. The Chair called for a motion to approve the annual report. Barry made the motion and Vice Chair Dunnuck seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimous.

b. Public Engagement

1. Debbie Ivester referred to the information in the Board members' material of the list of upcoming events in which members are invited to attend including the Shiloh Center Master Plan public meeting. This is second of two public meetings to develop a new master plan for the center and surrounding park. Dean Pistor asked where the master plan documents can be found. Debbie directed board members to the City website on the Projects page. The full

plans will be live on the website by Thursday. After the second meeting, the public will have 30 days to comment on line about the concept design.

2. Plans to continue construction of the Dr. Wesley Grant, Sr. Southside Center are still in the works. Public input was gathered prior to the construction of the existing center. The plan is to renew the public feedback in preparation of the next construction that includes the gymnasium. It will be combined with the Walton Street Park since the two facilities are located in the same neighborhood. Staff is considering applying for a grant with the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund to support construction cost of the splash pad, playground and sports court at the Grant Center. The grant application requires public comment, and action by RAB.
3. Other upcoming public engagement opportunities include: 1) artificial turf replacement at the John B Lewis Soccer Complex, 2) public art in the new front entrance of the Nature Center.

c. Fees & Charges

Christy Bass, Business Services Supervisor, made a presentation on the department fees and charges study, and the action to evaluate current and future data and true costs of programming. It allows the department to gather hard data and decide how that information should affect the fees and charges in the future.

d. Director's Report

Director Roderick Simmons made the following report.

1. The Nature Center just set an attendance record for 2015.
2. The City is the recipient of funds via community partners who received a grant from the Tourism Product Development Fund to support construction cost for two capital improvement projects. 1) Friends of the Nature Center for construction of the new front entrance at the Nature Center, 2) Asheville Buncombe Youth Soccer Association for replacement of artificial turf at the John B. Lewis Soccer Complex.
3. The youth basketball program started the first Saturday of January.
4. Park Maintenance will relocate out of it existing Hilliard Street location next to the Aston Tennis Center. The City is looking to make this property available for affordable housing.
5. At the next RAB meeting, the Board will see the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) list of priorities and operating projects. City Council is just starting to study the CIP budget as it prepares for its upcoming retreat.
6. The Shiloh Center Master Plan and swimming pool assessment is still in process. The assessment on the pool at Walton Street Park is almost done and will be part of an upcoming public meeting on all the recreation facilities in that neighborhood.
7. As part of the Montford Center Master Plan project, RAB members may hear that the City is moving forward on the project and will cut down trees. There are no plans to start the project since there is no funds to support the project.
8. Pat Dennehy asked if Parks and Recreation has an initiative for commercial entities to sponsor current or new projects. Roderick explained most projects are not attractive to sponsors since what we do is mostly maintenance and repair. Sponsors want new, nice projects rather than maintenance which is the majority of the needs. However, the City has had sponsors in the past, and the US Cellular Center is one example. The last actual sponsor Parks and Recreation had was the Food Lion Skate Park. Bob commended Pat on trying to get the private sector involved and agreed that they only really like the shiny new stuff.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Debbie asked the Board to please submit agenda items to the Chairman at least a week prior to the next meeting.
- b. On a future agenda staff will be bring the design plan to RAB for the Dr. Wesley Grant, Sr. Southside Center as part of an anticipated grant application to the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. RAB has seen it before but it was a few years ago, and for grant purposes needs to be renewed with RAB.
- c. Roderick will present the plan for the Capital Improvement Project budget information at the RAB March meeting.
- d. It is expected the Shiloh Center Master Plan and the final material on fees and charges will come before RAB in May.
- e. Chairman Pierce reiterated that the process to set the Board's agenda is to meet a week ahead of time to set the agenda and that the Board can contact him at any time prior to add an item.

6. ADJOURN

Chair Pierce adjourned the meeting at 1:07 pm without objection.